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Criminals At Large

By NEWGATE CALENDAR

EXCERPTED:

If all this sounds gimmicky, it isn't. The book is typical Canning, written with sensitivity and underlying menace. Which is more than can be said of Michael Bar-Zohar's **THE SPY WHO DIED TWICE** (Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95). Bar-Zohar is simply not a very good writer—or could this be the fault of the translation from the French? The plotting has its ingenious elements, and it moves on the highest levels, with British security and the C.I.A. tangling with the Soviet spy network. But Bar-Zohar's cliché-ridden style chops down the plotting at its base. At that, the writing is a considerable improvement over his "The Third Truth," which came out about two years ago. He may have a good novel in him yet. ■